

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

February 3, 2005

(Approved March 3, 2005)

Members Present: Brad Simpkins, Ronald O'Keefe, David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Kevin Pratt, John Hoglund, Peter Russell, Corey Landry, J. William Degnan, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: Edward Murdough, Karen Schlitzer, Earl Sweeney, Scott Weden, Al Burbank, Joseph Butts.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training*--Bruce McPherson, Bureau Chief; Heather Newland, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Call to Order. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair David Duquette at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 3, 2005 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, Classroom 5, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Item 2. Moment of Silence. Chair Duquette called for a moment of silence for Chris Dewolf who passed away last month.

Item 3. Motions and Seconds. Chair Duquette asked that any Commission member making a motion or seconding a motion state his/her name as it is sometimes difficult for the recording secretary to decipher who said it.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- (a) **Item 1. January 6, 2005.** *Motion* was made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to approve the

Minutes of the January 6, 2005 Commission meeting as printed and distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Item 1. Chris Dewolf. Chair Duquette thanked everyone for their assistance in Dover for Chris Dewolf. He said the services went very well, and the family was very appreciative. He noted that the logistics behind the scenes for a line of duty death is a huge, huge thing.

Item 2. Accidents. Chair Duquette stated that he reported last month about one of Dover's trucks being hit during a snowstorm, and no one was hurt because of the safety policies. This past Sunday they had another engine get hit in a snowstorm, and again the driver did an excellent job in getting out of the way. Again no one was injured. The engine will be out of service about six weeks.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Director Mason reported on the following items as Chief Prentiss was not present:

- (a) New Protocols—The committee came out with very good recommendations. A bill was drafted around that report. The entire bill was amended rather than try to insert things and make it more convoluted. There was a hearing yesterday, which was recessed until Tuesday, February 8, at 2:00 p.m. If passed, it will take effect January 1, 2006.
- (b) House Bill 288—This bill will allow licensed nurses, physicians, and physician assistants to be ambulance attendants when a community can't get adequate staffing for their ambulance. There is a provision in the law now that all you have to do is take the 24-hour refresher and a final, and you can get your EMT license as a nurse. Director Mason thinks HB 288 will die in the water. It's on hold now until after March 11.
- (c) Commission Name—Chair Duquette reported that Emergency Medical Services is being taken out of the Fire Standards & Training Commission name. Director Mason said that does not have to be a bill, and he is working on that.
- (d) Volunteer Firefighter Insurance—Commissioner Pratt asked if Director Mason knew about a bill to increase the volunteer firefighter death benefit. Director Mason replied that there is a bill for the State Firemen's Association to increase the state appropriation from \$6,000 to \$40,000.

- (e) Appointment—Chair Duquette stated that his appointment will be up in the Fall of 2005 for the EMS Trauma Coordinating Board. He said we need to see if someone else would like that appointment or if we want him to be reappointed.
- (f) National Scope of Practice—Chair Duquette reported that the National Scope of Practice is looking at changing definitions of levels of care. Now we have First Responders, Basic EMTs, EMT-Intermediates, and Paramedics. The changes pretty well parallel what NH is already doing.

Commissioner Hoglund said he read an article about concerns that ambulance personnel are not able to administer drugs. Chair Duquette said that is pretty much what the Basic EMT or EMT-I is.

Commissioner Carrier asked if the drug issue is now a protocol issue. Chair Duquette answered that it is not at the national level. He said it was a big issue at the State level.

Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office. Director Degnan reported on the following items:

- (a) Fatalities—They investigated 31 fires in January, with two fatalities and five arsons.
- (b) Smoke Detectors—Legislation in regard to having the seller of the homes certified for the buyer that the smoke detectors are not more than ten years old and that they are electrically powered on every level was voted inexpedient to legislate. They are going to work on redrafting something that will be more palatable.
- (c) Tier II Funding for Hazardous Materials—Present revenue estimations would fund the position as well as give \$100,000 to each hazardous materials team in the State, and \$120,000 to Fire Standards & Training for training.
- (d) Cigarette Legislation—They have put together a workshop so everybody can learn what these fire safe cigarettes are all about, which will be held on February 16 in the LOB Room 204.
- (e) Carbon Monoxide—Chair Duquette said they had a call for carbon monoxide in a house. The residents ignored two detectors. They had an automatic car starter that would start the car in the basement every couple of hours and run for 15 minutes.

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Simpkins reported on the following items:

- (a) Forest Ranger—Process has begun to advertise for a new Forest Ranger for District 13, western Hillsborough and eastern Cheshire Counties.

- (b) Fire Crew Training—Tentative dates and location are May 13-15 at Hidden Valley Scout Reservation in Gilmanton. Working on a possible new format this year to perk new interest.
- (c) Equipment—They currently have two Special Deputies working on equipment to be sure it will be ready for the spring fire season.
- (d) Volunteer Fire Assistance Committee—Will meet tomorrow to disburse approximately \$30,000 to rural towns in NH. It is a 50/50 cost share for providing wildland fire fighting equipment and safety items to towns with a population of less than 10,000.

Item 4. Curriculum Review. Chair Duquette reported that the Curriculum Status Report is in each Commission member's packet and is as follows:

CURRICULUM STATUS REPORT
February 3, 2005

- (a) **Driver/Operator:**
 - (1) Pumps:
No classes scheduled at this time.
- (b) **Hazardous Materials:**
 - (1) Operations:
This program is well underway at this point with no problems reported.
 - (2) Technician:
The trailer is proving to be a valuable asset and will be an on-going work in progress; a new larger trailer has been ordered in order to contain the ever-growing demand of Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- (c) **Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:**

A number of Part 139 FAA classes have been approved for this Spring and Summer.
- (d) **NFPA 1030 Series:**
 - (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners:
At this point classes will be scheduled periodically as they consistently fill up. Inspector II Visiting Committee has started the process.
 - (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator:
Is in progress and looking at two separate programs, a one-week course for firefighters, and a two-week course for fire investigators. At this point it looks as though the New York curriculum is being considered for both classes. Waiting for information from the committee at this point. Rick Wood has resigned as Chair and Chris Wyman has replaced him. Dean Chandler has been assigned to this committee. A meeting has been scheduled soon; they are working on the date at this time.
 - (3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator:
Will probably follow the 1033 standard.

Commissioner Landry said he has nothing new to report on the 1030 Series at this time.

(e) Rescue Series:

- (1) Structural Collapse:
No pilots scheduled as yet.
- (2) Confined Space:
There was a class in Portsmouth in October.
- (3) Technical Rope Rescue:
A visiting committee has begun. Captain Andy Anderson is assigned to the committee. A curriculum search is in progress at the moment. The committee feels that after six years ITRS needs to be reviewed and perhaps altered.
- (4) ITRS:
Director Mason reported that NFPA 1006, Professional Qualifications for Rescue Personnel has been established. We will look at ITRS on a regular basis, and as we redo the curriculum, we will make sure we bring it into 1006, so eventually it will be an accredited certification.

(f) NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II:

Train-the-Trainers have been successful thus far with over 250 instructors attending both at the Academy and in the field from Littleton to Hollis.

(g) NFPA 1021 Fire Officer:

This program was very successful in October 2004. The course went well and is on the road to Burlington, Vermont this month; all reports say it is very successful.

Chair Duquette reported on his teaching of a couple of classes in the Fire Officer program in Burlington. He said the students complimented us on the instructors that we had and how impressed they were with the curriculum.

(h) NFPA 1041 Instructor:

A Train-the-Trainer and a bridge course for instructors of 1041 was scheduled for September 2004. Approximately 18 instructors were in attendance with six being first time additions. A bridge course for all instructors was scheduled for November 2004 and was successful, and a full 60-hour class was scheduled for November/December 2004 with excellent reviews.

Commissioner Carrier stated that the “surprise project” noted at the last Commission meeting was part of the curriculum from the beginning, and was not a surprise project at the end. Some people didn’t follow the directions so they had work to do at the end of the class.

(i) NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter:

Ready to go.

(j) Other:

- (1) Visiting Committees for the following in accordance with the Commission vote on February 3, 1999 are about to commence in the near future once the committees are established.

- (i) NFPA 1002 Aerial Apparatus, a visiting committee is being formed at this time.
- (ii) NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Decontamination is currently being revised by Dave Jones and Captain Anderson adding Weapons of Mass Destruction to make it current.
- (2) Dennis Rosolen and Dean Chandler attended the annual Pro-Board meeting in West Palm Beach Florida December 3-5, 2004. New Hampshire is rated fifth out of 39 accredited agencies for contributions and certifications to the Pro-Board. We received many kudos that weekend. Dennis has been asked to give a presentation on how we do the Fire Officer III & IV with the CFOD next year as portfolio and project-type evaluations dealing with education and experience are becoming a prevalent means of evaluation.

Item 5. Retreat. Commissioner Murdough was absent.

Chair Duquette drew everyone's attention to the status list of Commission Action Items from Retreat 6/3/04.

V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #88. The Director's Report was as follows:
Director's Report #88
February 3, 2005

- 1) **WELCOME**
Well, after ten months Bud Nelson has been replaced, not that Bud could ever be replaced! Ranger Brad Simpkins has been promoted to Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Forest Protection. Congratulations and welcome, Brad!
- 2) **HB 303**
The bill that would allow the Commission to waive the hiring and education requirements for certain fire service personnel is both enclosed and being heard Tuesday at 11:00 am at the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

Director Mason reviewed HB 303, explaining what changes will be made as discussed in past Commission meetings. He said that this also cleans up the representatives on the Commission from the Association of Fire Chiefs. We have had a difficult time finding a volunteer fire chief. The new wording states there will be one representative of a full-time fire department, and Commissioner O'Keefe is that representative. Commissioner Weden is now the volunteer chief representative. Once Commissioner Weden gives his chief's position up, he is ineligible to be a member and will be resigning. The wording has been changed to one fire chief of a volunteer department, which would allow someone who is a full-time fire chief for a volunteer fire department to be eligible.

3) **JOHN T AYERS AWARD**

The FIOANH is soliciting nominations for the 2004 John T. Ayers Fire Instructor of the Year. The form is enclosed.

4) **INSTRUCTOR TRAINING**

Last month it was brought up that a "surprise project" that was not in the curriculum was mandated in the Fire Instructor Program. It was covered in the orientation and is part of the requirements for Instructor III. This was definitely an approved portion of the program.

5) **MINUTES**

The look of the minutes will change! We are mandated by the Right to Know Law to have our minutes available to the public within 144 hours (six days). Therefore we will cover the essentials (i.e., motions, etc.) and the other reports will be abbreviated, but we will keep the tapes of the meetings. It is very important that the transcribers know who makes the motion, second and what the motion is. Thanks!

6) **PHOTOS**

Those needing photos (Chief Simpkins and Deputy Sykes) please report to the State Police Crime Lab on the third floor of 33 Hazen Drive (Safety HQ) at 0930 on March 3, prior to our next meeting.

7) **FIRE ACT GRANT WORKSHOPS**

Bob Waters, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, has spent the last three days in New Hampshire conducting workshops to help prepare the local fire and EMS units in the preparation to apply for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program. . .nationally there will be \$650 million available to the local communities. We have conducted workshops in Lancaster, Lebanon and Peterborough. Later in the month Bob will return to conduct workshops in Newbury, Moultonboro, the Fire Academy and Epping. To date 54 New Hampshire Fire Departments have received over \$3 million in this year's grant program.

Other items discussed were:

8.) Commissioner Schlitzer had an 8-pound 4-ounce, 21-inches long, baby boy, Alexander, last Friday, January 28. This is her first baby. Director Mason sent a card around for everyone to sign for Karen.

9.) Director Mason explained that we have a new recording system for Commission meetings; they will be recorded on disk.

Director Mason also noted that the minutes will be shorter as we will not be going into as much detail. He requested that anyone with a Committee report forward it by email to Heather Newland for easy insertion into the minutes.

10.) Graduation for the Burlington, Vermont Fire Officer program will be Wednesday, February 16, 2005. The Governor of Vermont will be the keynote speaker.

11.) Inspector I program is going on right now; Chief Rosolen is attending that program.

12.) Director Mason announced that the 1st Battalion of the 172nd came home. We did the ladders with the two aerials again to hold the flag, and it was a hit.

- 13.) We are now sending all memos regarding retirement on our letterhead. The letters are going to the fire chiefs, and explain the hiring process. The process is also explained on our website.
- 14.) Commissioner Russell asked if there was an update on the Bristol firefighter issue. Director Mason said that he has written a letter to the Professional Firefighters Association stating that the firefighter has been accepted into the June 2005 C2F2 program.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Retreat Items: Instructor Recruitment. Commissioner Carrier reported that Item 3-a is “improve benefits for instructors, particularly pay and retirement.” He said that research has indicated that we have the third highest paid instructors in New England. Director Mason said that we are equal with Connecticut.

Chair Duquette asked if there has been any discussion on retirement contributions. Director Mason explained that it would be a legislative issue for one year from now. Chair Duquette said it might be an incentive. After a short discussion on Social Security and Retirement, Director Mason said that we can investigate it more.

Commissioner Carrier said that Item 3-b is to “develop a marketing program and incentives to increase instructor participation.” He said that instructors in the field are concerned that they will be held liable. Director Mason said that they have limited liability under the RSAs.

Commissioner O’Keefe asked what categories or what level of instructor need the most attention; is it Fire Officer, is it Rescue, is it Firefighter I or II. Chair Duquette said that there are not enough students to come to class. Once the core group is done, the demand is going away. Director Mason said that we have added two more increment steps to the payroll steps.

Commissioner Russell asked if we can get a list of certified instructors. Director Mason explained that we have them listed on a spreadsheet. We don’t want people to say that we want this particular instructor for this class; we choose the instructors.

Commissioner Carrier noted that the process to become an instructor is intimidating. He said that all that’s really there is some paperwork and the mentoring, but it looks intimidating on the flowchart with big boxes with the steps you have to go through. He suggested that maybe we could work on that and try to simplify it.

Chief McPherson discussed the fact that some instructors suffer from burnout and some take time off. It seems to go in cycles.

Commissioner Carrier summed his report up by stating that we should look at legislation for retirement. Other than that, we are in pretty good shape.

Commissioner Hoglund asked how often an instructor has to recertify. Director Mason replied that it is every year, 16 hours of continuing education and eight hours of professional development.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Carbon Monoxide. Chair Duquette asked if we can look into legislative action on carbon monoxide. Director Degnan stated that it is warranted, and we should look at something for next year's legislative session.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. Bert Beaudoin. Chair Duquette reported that Sue Beaudoin's husband, Bert, is back home from the hospital and is now on home oxygen. He is doing better, and we should keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

Item 2. Commissioner Landry. Chair Duquette announced that this is Commissioner Landry's last Commission meeting. Commissioner Landry was given a round of applause.

Item 3. Fire Chiefs Association. Commissioner O'Keefe stated that the February Fire Chiefs Association meeting is in Durham next Thursday, February 10. He has only had eight people sign up. If anyone would like to attend, please call Commissioner O'Keefe's secretary to let her know.

Item 4. Whitefield. Director Degnan said there was a report earlier this week that Whitefield had a possible line of duty death. He said that the firefighter responded to the station, but never went to the fire. He had chronic lung disease. The firefighter went snowmobiling after the fire call, and he died at home after that.

Director Degnan reported that Commissioner Pratt has brought together a group to do a manual for protocols on line of duty deaths. Mark Klose

is working on the project for college credit. He worked on putting it all together, creating checklists to make it easier for the fire officer. It is very well written and put together. They will give everyone a printed copy, and also put it on their website. It is a work in progress.

Item 5. Rob Farley's Wife. Director Degnan reported that it looks like Rob Farley's wife's cancer is back.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner O'Keefe, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to adjourn at 11:32 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 02/03/05
2. Minutes of Meeting – 01/06/05 – Not Approved
3. Curriculum Status Report 02/03/05
4. Minutes of Meeting – 12/09/04 – Approved 01/06/05
5. Updated List of Commission Members
6. FIOANH's Nomination Format for the John T. Ayers Fire Instructor of the Year Award—2004
7. Number of Personnel Certified in NH 07/01/04 to 02/03/05
8. Director's Report #88—February 3, 2005
9. Commission Action Items from Retreat 6/3/04
10. House Bill 303